

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3659
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
MISHAP IN KAWADI OPEN CAST MINES
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Director General of Mine Safety (DGMS) has conducted any enquiry into the mishap in the Kawadi open cast mine of the Western Coalfields Limited in Majri area of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the said enquiry has since been completed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons for delay; and
- (e) the time by which the enquiry report of the DGMS is likely to be submitted to the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c): The enquiry has established that the accident occurred at the bottom of the 15 meters high coal bench of a mechanized quarry. The bench which had been formed from the double section workings was affected by fire and was located on the rise side against a fault plane. The benches in overburden which consisted of fractured sand stone had flushed into a combined height of 52 metres with individual width of 8-10 meters. This was overlain by bench in black cotton soil as high as 15 meters with width of only 4-8 meters. Thus, while 16 persons were working at the bottom the coal bench, the entire benches consisting of black cotton soil, sandstone and coal failed and the debris trapped the workers, out of which 10 asphyxiated to death while the remaining 6 (six) escaped with minor injuries.

The accident could have been averted if the quarry had been properly benched and special care taken while working near the fault plane and in coal benches and special care taken while working near the fault plane and in coal benches affected by fire as required under Regulations, 98(1), 98(3) and 100(1) of the Coal Mines Regulation 1957, as amended from time to time read with the Directorate General of Mines Safety letter Nos. 6519 and 5330 dated 29.9.95 and 4.11.97 respectively.

(d) and (e): Do not arise.